

Washington - Rep. Charlie Wilson (D-OH) today joined a majority in the House of Representatives to support fiscally responsible, fully paid for legislation that makes family farmers a priority, supports nutrition programs that help families in need and invests in renewable energy. The U.S. House passed the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007 by a vote of 231-191.

FAMILY FARMERS:

The Farm bill imposes real payment limitations that crack down on subsidies, saves more than a half billion dollars, and redirects funds to the people who need it most: working family farmers and ranchers. The bill also guarantees a historic \$1.5 billion in funding for fruit and vegetable programs, which have not received traditional Farm Bill benefits and includes new transparency rules to ensure the public knows taxpayer dollars are getting to the family farmers who need them.

"This legislation is a strong investment in the hardworking families who run the orchards and farms of Ohio's Sixth District," Wilson said. "In short, this legislation makes rural America stronger."

FIGHTING HUNGER:

The Farm Bill also expands nutrition programs that help 35 million low-income families, including nearly doubling the funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, so that food banks, soup kitchens, and other emergency feeding sites have needed resources.

This was the outcome for which Wilson lobbied. This spring Wilson and other members of Ohio's Congressional delegation wrote a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee expressing their strong support for the Food Stamp Program. The USDA estimates 577,000 households in Ohio live with hunger or the threat of hunger everyday. "The Food Stamp program has been the cornerstone of Federal food assistance initiatives since its implementation in 1977," the letter stated.

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Finally, the comprehensive Farm Bill includes critical provisions that fight global warming and support Democratic efforts to make the United States energy independent. The bill makes historic investment in renewable energy programs providing \$2 billion in loan guarantees for the development of refineries that process renewable fuels, a key step toward bringing more renewable fuels to market in America and includes \$1.5 billion for production incentives for ethanol and biodiesel made from agricultural, forest, and waste plant materials.

"The House has produced a farm bill that is a true reform bill," Wilson said. "And as a Blue Dog Democrat I'm proud that this bill complies with commonsense pay-as-you-go or PAYGO principles." Wilson said.

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